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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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23 Jan 68 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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*South Vietnam: Sporadic enemy harassment of allied forces just south of the Demilitarized Zone yesterday points up the continuing threat in this area.

Intermittent mortar, rocket and artillery fire was launched against Khe Sanh throughout the day. Although no casualties were reported, enemy ground fire bagged two more helicopters north of the base, bringing to six the number of US aircraft downed in the area during the past six days. At the eastern end of the Zone, a combined US - South Vietnamese unit engaged an estimated battalion-size enemy force on 21 January near Gio Linh. The enemy force, believed to be from the 803rd Regiment of the North Vietnamese 324B Division, was supported by heavy 130-mm. artillery fire from the Zone.

[redacted] the 812th Regiment, has moved to position some 14 miles southwest of Quang Tri City. If confirmed, this would be the southernmost move of any element of the division and would significantly increase the threat to Quang Tri City.

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The possibility that enemy offensives in the northernmost provinces may be coordinated with attacks in the western highlands is enhanced by continued maneuvering of the B-3 Front subordinates, including at least five North Vietnamese regiments, in the Cambodian-Laotian-Vietnamese border area. Recent captured documents [redacted]

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[redacted] point to an impending Communist effort against US and South Vietnamese forces and installations in western Kontum and Pleiku provinces.

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A new Communist headquarters complex in Binh Long Province, originally believed to be a new tactical front headquarters for enemy units in northern III Corps,

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may assume a bigger role.

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The Communists' Liberation Radio joined Hanoi over the weekend in denouncing President Johnson's State of the Union message.

On 19 and 20 January it set out to refute the President's review of events in Vietnam in 1967 with statistics and conclusions of its own. President Johnson's attitude toward negotiations was termed "odious and vile" since it demanded Communist reciprocity for a bombing cessation of North Vietnam. The Front has so far avoided comment on North Vietnam's Foreign Minister Trinh's "will" talk offer of 29 December. Instead, the Front's recent statements refer to Trinh's year-old statement that talks "could" be held, coupling it with their own new political program to demonstrate Communist sincerity in seeking a peaceful solution to the Vietnam problem.

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